

We Claim:

1. A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a floor-engaging portion having a first air inlet on the underside thereof;

5 an upright portion pivotally connected at its lower end to said floor-engaging portion;

a detachable handle upstanding from the upper end of said upright portion and having a first end and a second end;

10 a rigid tubular duct extending along the handle between a second air inlet at said first end thereof and an outlet disposed intermediate opposite ends of said handle;

an elongate flexible hose having a first end and a second end, the first end of the hose being connected to said outlet on said handle; and

15 a valve having a first inlet port fluidly connected to said first air inlet, a second inlet port fluidly connected to the second end of said elongate flexible hose, an outlet port connected to a dust separation device and means for selectively connecting said valve outlet port to either said first or said 20 second valve inlet ports.

2. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, in which one end of the handle is received in a socket in the upper end of said upright portion of the cleaner.

3. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 2, in which said 25 first end of the handle is received in said socket in the upper end of said upright portion of the cleaner.

4. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 3, in which the second end of the handle is closed.

5. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 4, in which the second end of the handle is shaped to provide a hand grip which can be grasped by the user.

6. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 2, in which the 5 valve comprises an actuator disposed in said socket, the actuator being arranged to configure the valve to connect said second air inlet to said dust separation device when the handle is removed from said socket and to connect said first air inlet to said dust separation device when the handle is fully 10 inserted into said socket.

7. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 2, in which the handle is retained in the socket against a resilient bias by a catch.

8. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, in which the 15 cross-sectional area of the rigid tubular duct extending along the handle preferably increases substantially from said second air inlet at said first end of the handle towards said outlet disposed intermediate opposite ends of said handle, the outer portion of the first end of the handle comprising an elongate 20 portion having a substantially uniform cross-sectional area, said socket being arranged to receive said elongate outer portion of the lower end of the handle.

9. A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claims 8, in which the cross-sectional area of the elongate outer portion of the lower 25 end of the handle at said second air inlet is 40%-60% less than the cross-sectional area of the rigid tubular duct adjacent said outlet of the handle.